In the Claims:

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (currently amended) A method for acquiring and distributing information regarding architectural decisions to developers of a software system under development, comprising:

inputting a plurality of questions, wherein said plurality of questions reflect a system design of said software system under development, and wherein said plurality of questions include questions regarding whether a configuration value associated with a component of said software system under development is the same for all users of said software system under development;

generating a category array in response to said plurality of questions, wherein each element in said category array corresponds to a unique set of answers to said plurality of questions, and wherein each element in said category array contains a corresponding one of a plurality of design guidelines, each of said plurality of design guidelines indicating a name of a corresponding one of a plurality of data stores, wherein a first one of said elements in said category array corresponds to a first unique set of answers indicating that said configuration value is the same for all users of said software system under development, and wherein a second one of said elements of said category array corresponds to a second unique set of answers indicating that said configuration value is not the same for all users of said software system under development;

inputting an operational characteristic of a component of said software system under development, wherein said operational characteristic is said configuration value associated with said component of said software system under development;

displaying -said <u>plurality of questions to at least one of said developers of said software system under development</u><s>at least one question regarding said at least one operational characteristic</s>;

inputting <s>at least one</s> answer<u>s</u> to said <u>plurality of questions from said at least one of said developers of said software system under development</u><s>at least one question</s>;

locating, responsive to said <u>input answers</u><s>at least one answer</s> and said category array, -one of said plurality of design guidelines related to said <s>at least one</s> operational characteristic, wherein said located one of said plurality of design guidelines is a name of a data store to be used to store said operational characteristic <u>in said software system under development</u>; and

displaying said name of said data store to be used to store said operational characteristic <u>said at least one of said developers of said software system under development</u>.

2. (cancelled)

3. (cancelled)

4. (cancelled)

5. (cancelled)

6. (cancelled)

7. (cancelled)

8. (cancelled)

9. (cancelled)

10. (cancelled)

11. (cancelled)

12. (cancelled)

13. (cancelled)

14. (cancelled)

15. (cancelled)

16. (cancelled)

17. (cancelled)

18. (cancelled)

19. (cancelled)

20. (cancelled)

Please add the following new claims:

21. (new) The method of claim 1, wherein said wherein said first unique set of answers further indicates that said configuration value is the same for all locations in which said software system under development may be deployed, and wherein said second unique set of answers further indicates that said configuration value is not the same for all locations in which said software system under development may be deployed.

22. (new) The method of claim 21, wherein a third one of said elements in said category array corresponds to a third unique set of answers indicating that said configuration value is the same for all users of said software system under development and not the same for all locations in which said software system under development may be deployed.

23. (new) The method of claim 22, wherein a fourth one of said elements in said category array corresponds to a fourth unique set of answers indicating that said configuration value is the not

the same for all users of said software system under development and the same for all locations

in which said software system under development may be deployed.